

When Poland was occupied by Germany in 1939 many members of the Polish Forces escaped to various adjacent countries. It is of course well known that many operated as part of the British Army or Air Force but initially some sections of the Forces reached France and a Polish 'War Office' was established in Paris.

Official stamps were needed for this Office in early 1940. They were introduced on May 3rd and discontinued on June 10th 1940 when they, in line with other troops, were evacuated at the time of 'Dunkirk'.

To provide identifiable stamps without delay for printing or overprinting, they produced perfins using the initials "W.P." = Wojsko Polskie = Polish Army, using current French stamps. It is not recorded where the perforator came from.

Those so treated were:-

<u>STAMP</u>	<u>S.G. Cat .No.</u>	<u>No. Perforated</u>
Sower	415, 498, 499, 505b	100 of each
Mercury	620, 621	500 of each
	625, 626, 627a	400 of each
	629	100
Peace	508	2800
	511b	500
Irir	643, 644	300 of each
Ceres	591c	250
	591e	750
Languedoc	657 (a commemorative)	100
Lyon	658 (a commemorative)	100

As this totals some 8300 stamps, they are very scarce.

On evacuation it is suggested that the unused stamps and the perforator were dumped in the Bay of Biscay from an overloaded ship en route to England.

The main part of this information is taken from a book "Polish Post, 7 Year War, 1939-1945", published 1945 by H M Smith. It is a story of the various special Polish issues including camps and ghettos.